

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, USWFC, OCON, EAID

SUBJECT: THIRD SESSION WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: (A) ROME 7061 (B) ROME 7174 (C) STATE 94832

1. A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH D. J. WALTON, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF FAO'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT ADDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON FAO/WORLD FOOD COUNCIL THINKING ON NUTRITION. THE FAO HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PAPER ON NUTRITION WITH THE USUALLY TRAVELING WFC STAFF. A MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5.

2. AT THAT TIME THE FAO WILL INDICATE ITS RELUCTANCE TO BE SADDLED WITH THE TASK OF PREPARING A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION FOR MAJOR NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT. IN ITS VIEW MUCH CAN BE DONE BY SETTING UP SOME MODEL NATIONAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ASSISTING COUNTRIES TO PUT SUCH PROGRAMS INTO EFFECT. A WORLD LONG-TERM ACTION PLAN IS NOT CRITICAL. RUNNING DEEPER IS THE BASIC FAO BELIEF THAT NUTRITION PROGRAMS ALONE,
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SEPARATE FROM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ARE NOT OF TOO GREAT VALUE.

3. FAO WILL ALSO ARGUE AGAINST ADDING A NEW WFC AD HOC MINISTERIAL EXECUTIVE GROUP TO ASSIST IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG-TERM ACTION PLAN. IN THEIR VIEW, THE AD HOC NUTRITION COMMITTEE, HEADED BY THE FAO,

CAN COORDINATE WORK IN THIS AREA.

4. THE TIMING OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AD HOC NUTRITION COMMITTEE IS HARD TO SETTLE. WALTON NOTED THE FAO COUNCIL HAS REQUESTED THAT THE AD HOC NUTRITION COMMITTEE MEET CLOSE TO A COUNCIL SESSION. THE FAO POSTPONED THE JUNE MEETING TO HAVE INPUTS FROM ECOSOC AND THE BODY ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE FAO IS PROPOSING SPRING 1978 SO THAT THE AD HOC NUTRITION COMMITTEE CAN MEET BEFORE THE 4TH SESSION OF THE WFC TO SUM UP WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND SET OUT AN ACTION PROGRAM FOR WFC CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER THE AD HOC NUTRITION COMMITTEE IS MEANT TO REPORT TO THE FAO COUNCIL. MANY OF THESE ISSUES ARE PRESENTED IN THE FAO PROGRAM COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE FAO COUNCIL AND WILL BE DISCUSSED IN JUNE.

5. THE FAO ALSO FEARS THE WFC DRAFT RECOMMENDATION IN THEIR TRADE PAPER THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTS TO DISCUSS THEIR DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD POLICY PROBLEMS. GARDNER

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